

**Helen Muir** is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield University and the Professor of Aerospace Psychology. She has an MA in Psychology, a PhD from the University of London and is a Chartered Psychologist.

She has used her scientific training in psychology to establish at Cranfield the only University department in the UK specialising in Aviation Psychology and to develop a unique methodology for conducting research into factors influencing survival in accidents.

The expertise and facilities which have been developed at Cranfield has led to its recognition as the focus for European cabin safety research and collaborative programmes with manufacturers and regulatory authorities (both in Europe and North America) are now an important part of the activities. The facilities include a Boeing 737 cabin research simulator and a very large cabin simulator which is based on the Airbus A3XX. Sponsors of Human Factors Safety Research have included the UK CAA, FAA, Transport Canada, Shell Aircraft, British Airways, and a consortium of European Airframe Manufacturers and Operators. As a direct consequence of the scale and success of these activities the UK has been widely recognised as world leaders in this field. The work that she has implemented has been used to support changes to a series of airworthiness regulations in the UK, in countries within the EEC community, USA and Canada. Whilst the research has mainly been focussed within the aviation environment, projects in other safety critical industries e.g. rail, shipping and offshore have been developed.

Helen Muir acts as a consultant and serves on a range of committees associated with Human Performance in safety critical industries including the National Advisory Committee for Human Factors. She is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and helped to establish their Human Factors Group (acting as the Chair for the first 5 years of its existence). Whilst research is her primary interest and academic activity, Helen Muir has a major role within the University in her capacity as the only Pro-Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for all of the academic process across the University.

Personal recognition has included being the first psychologist to receive an award from the Royal Aeronautical Society (the B.W.O.Townsend Award) and the award of Order of the British Empire in 1993. In 1998 she was awarded the Roger Green Medal by the Royal Aeronautical Society and she was also presented with the Award of Excellence in Cabin Safety by the Southern California Safety Institute. In 1999 she was awarded the Whittle Safety Award by the International Federation of Airworthiness.